

Muscatine Sculpture

Spur of the moment interactions with materials both familiar and unfamiliar establish my foundation for creating art.

Exercising skills in painting, drawing, metal fabrication, welding, and ceramics I aim to mix mediums. By combing materials and processes I maintain a rhythm in creating art.

From my interest in collage spawned a desire to create with found and recycled materials. When asked to design a sculpture for the town of Muscatine, I decided that an eagle would be an appropriate subject, to be placed alongside the river.

Birds of prey hold a powerful significance in the environment and to its inhabitants. Passionate volunteers strive yearly to keep their populations steady. Along the river front eagles hunt fish and other small prey, taking advantage of what nature readily provides. In an effort to speak to the sleekness and strength of the many birds of prey I will create a sculpture that captures the spirit of the golden eagle.

I have chosen to use pop can tabs to create the eagle, taking advantage of the versatility in form that they provide. By stringing the tabs together, I can create a color palette despite the abundance of the silver aluminum.

I am making an effort to collect pop can tab donations to gain upwards of 5,000 to 10,000 tabs and complete a sculpture scaling at its largest dimension 5 feet. Support for this project is greatly appreciated and I look forward to spending time in Muscatine.

—Yelena Mass

